Specification:

Please amend the specification, page 3 as follows:

correspondences to allow the position and state of images to be recorded, the matching of pass points for the geo-referencing and geo-coding of remote sensing data, or an analysis of point correspondences in 3D for the recording of the positions and attitudes of three-dimensional objects.

In one embodiment, two matching pairs at a time can also be combined into tuples, a list of tuples is compiled and a search tree is created on the basis of the tuples list. Also, an affine map is created for each tuple that maps the two points making up each matching pair onto one another. The combination into tuples, the sorting of tuples into a tuple list and the creation of a search tree on the basis of the tuple list make it possible for a number of matching pairs that is as close as possible to a maximum to be determined very quickly and efficiently without any working memory-imposed limitation having an adverse effect on the functional capability that the method has in principle.

In one embodiment, validity of tuples can also be checked to allow the large number of tuples to be sorted into the tuple list and valid tuples are assessed for their "cost". In particular, this advantageous embodiment makes it possible for invalid tuples to be sorted out at an early stage. By means of the cost assessment, an easy way of assessing the quality of the valid tuples is made available. In this way, the working memory required and the computing time required are significantly reduced in comparison with known methods.

In one embodiment, a matching result can also calculated on the basis of clustering. This enables the matching result to be calculated in a particularly easy and efficient way.

In another embodiment, a method of fingerprint verification whose performance is not limited by a working memory-imposed limitation and which is thus suitable even for mobile, i.e. portable for example, fingerprint verification.

Under further embodiments of the present invention a device is specified which, with a small working memory and limited computing performance allows point correspondences in two sets of points to be very efficiently detected. One particular embodiment specifies in an

advantageous manner a fingerprint verification device that can for example be mobile, i.e. portable, and can be accommodated in for example a chip card, a mobile phone, a PDA or a similar mobile computer device.

Thank you,

NBP

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